

HIGH-PERFORMANCE NETWORK SWITCH

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a high-performance network switch. A digital switch has a plurality of blades coupled to a switching fabric via serial pipes. Serial link technology is used in the switching fabric. Each blade outputs serial data streams with in-band control information in multiple stripes to the switching fabric. The switching fabric includes a plurality of cross points corresponding to the multiple stripes. In one embodiment five stripes and five cross points are used. Each blade has a backplane interface adapter (BIA). One or more integrated bus translators (IBTs) and/or source packet processors are coupled to a BIA. An encoding scheme for packets of data carried in wide striped cells is provided.

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